

# Village of Westchester

# ANNUAL REPORT



2025

Barry Krumstok  
Village Manager

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## Dear Village Board & Citizens of Westchester,

I am pleased to share the Village of Westchester's 2025 Annual Report, a year that marked our Centennial and continued steady progress for our community. As Village Manager, my focus has been strengthening our organization, maintaining financial stability, and ensuring Westchester is well-prepared for the future.

In 2025, we took steps to move the Village forward. We completed and implemented our professional Water and Sewer Rate Study, adopted a long-term funding plan to address infrastructure upgrades and lead service line mandates, and advanced comprehensive capital planning for our water, sewer, and stormwater systems. We also launched the Water Usage Portal to give residents better insight into their consumption, began implementation of a new ERP system to modernize our internal operations, and initiated both a Village Strategic Plan and Energy Plan to guide long-term priorities.

Financial responsibility is always imperative. In 2025, we maintained full actuarially recommended pension contributions, took action to preserve stable revenues following changes at the State level, and pursued responsible non-tax revenue opportunities. These steps are not always easy, but they are necessary to protect essential services and maintain long-term stability.

At the same time, 2025 was a year of celebration. Our Centennial events brought residents, businesses, and community partners together in ways that highlighted the pride and resilience that define Westchester. From infrastructure investments to community programming, our work this year reflects a balanced approach - honoring our past while thoughtfully planning for the future.

The progress outlined in this report is the result of dedicated staff, supportive elected officials, and an engaged community. I am grateful for the collaboration and trust that make this work possible, and I look forward to continuing to build on this momentum in the years ahead.

Sincerely,



Barry Krumstok  
Village Manager



# INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS



Imagine your daily routine – from the smooth commute along well-maintained roads to the seamless flow of water every time you turn on a faucet. These seemingly ordinary aspects are the backbone of our community's infrastructure. Roadways pave the way for easy travel, and water and sewer utilities ensure a constant, clean supply. They're not just structures; they are the silent architects of our convenience, shaping the comfort and quality of everyday life. We depend on this important infrastructure daily, so its maintenance and resilience is of the utmost importance. To continue providing residents with a smooth, safe and enjoyable daily experience, the Village of Westchester completed the following infrastructure improvements in 2025:

## STREETS AND ALLEYS

We focused heavily on maintaining and improving roadways, resurfacing over 2.5 miles of streets, micro-surfacing another 1.1 miles, and using 17,200 pounds of material to crack-fill 6.4 miles. In addition, 2 alleys were reconstructed, one being converted into an environmentally friendly green alley.

## BEAUTIFICATION & SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS

Public Works continued enhancing the Village's safety, accessibility, and overall appearance throughout the year.

- Planted 214 new trees to strengthen and diversify the Village's urban canopy.
- The Village was once again recognized as a Tree City USA community, reflecting our continued commitment to responsible urban forestry practices.
- Replaced 9,439 feet of curb to improve roadway durability and drainage.
- Removed and replaced 1,981 sidewalk squares and trip hazards to enhance pedestrian safety and neighborhood walkability.
- Sandblasted and repainted 285 fire hydrants as part of a multi-year maintenance program to improve functionality and appearance.

## WATER AND SEWER

Significant effort continued toward modernizing our water and sewer infrastructure. In 2025, the Village replaced 7,860 feet of aging water main and removed 215 lead service lines in compliance with state mandates. Sanitary and storm sewer systems were also proactively maintained, with 4.38 miles of main lines cleaned and televised. To enhance long-term reliability and performance, 5,336 feet of sanitary sewer and 5,209 feet of storm sewer were lined.



# INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS *BEFORE & AFTER*



**GREEN ALLEY PROJECT**  
**RECEIVED ~\$70,000 IN GRANT FUNDS**



**STREET PROGRAM**



**WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM**  
**RECEIVED \$200,000 IN GRANT FUNDS**

# INVESTING IN WESTCHESTER: LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE

The Village of Westchester continues to make strategic investments in its aging water and sewer infrastructure to ensure long-term sustainability, regulatory compliance, and public health protection. With much of the Village's underground infrastructure dating back to the 1920s and 1930s, modernization remains a top priority. In addition, the federally mandated Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act requires the replacement of resident and Village lead services lines by 2040.

## PROFESSIONAL WATER & SEWER RATE STUDY

In 2024, the Village engaged Baxter & Woodman to conduct a comprehensive Water and Sewer Rate Study to establish a long-term, data-driven funding plan. The study evaluated system conditions, regulatory requirements, capital needs, and financial sustainability over a 20-year planning horizon.

In 2025, Baxter & Woodman formally presented the completed study to the Village Board and again at a public Town Hall meeting to ensure transparency and community engagement. Following review and discussion, the Village Board adopted one of the recommended rate structures in June 2025 to fund critical water main improvements and lead service line replacements. The adopted rate plan provides:

- **A structured, long-term funding strategy for infrastructure modernization**
- **Dedicated resources for compliance with state and federal mandates**
- **Financial stability to support the 20-Year Capital Improvement Plan**
- **Transparent and responsible stewardship of utility funds**

With the study now complete and the rate structure in place, Westchester is positioned to proactively address infrastructure needs, replace aging water mains, advance lead service line replacement efforts, and maintain safe, reliable water and sewer services for the community well into the future.

## ADDRESSING LEAD SERVICE LINE COMPLIANCE

Compliance with the Lead Service Replacement Act was a top priority for the Village in 2025, and significant progress was made toward meeting these mandates:

- **Lead Service Line Inventory:** The inventory was completed, submitted to the EPA, and made publicly available on the Village website in July 2024. This transparent approach ensures full compliance with EPA requirements and provides residents with access to important information about their water service.
- **Replacement Plan Development:** Partnering with Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL), the Village submitted a comprehensive project plan to try to secure funding through the Public Water Supply Loan Program (PWSLP). **We expect approval of the project plan this spring and would then be eligible for loan funding.**
- **Water Filter Pitcher Distribution Program:** To ensure EPA compliance and protect vulnerable households during the transition period, the Village implemented a program to provide affected residents with water filter pitchers.

# INVESTING IN WESTCHESTER: LONG-TERM PLANNING FOR A RESILIENT FUTURE CONTINUED

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & TRANSPARENCY

Recognizing the importance of these efforts, the Village made it a priority to keep all residents informed and engaged. By fostering open communication and ensuring transparency, we created a shared understanding of the purpose and necessity behind these priorities. Throughout 2025, the Village actively connected with residents to provide clarity and encourage meaningful participation in these critical efforts:

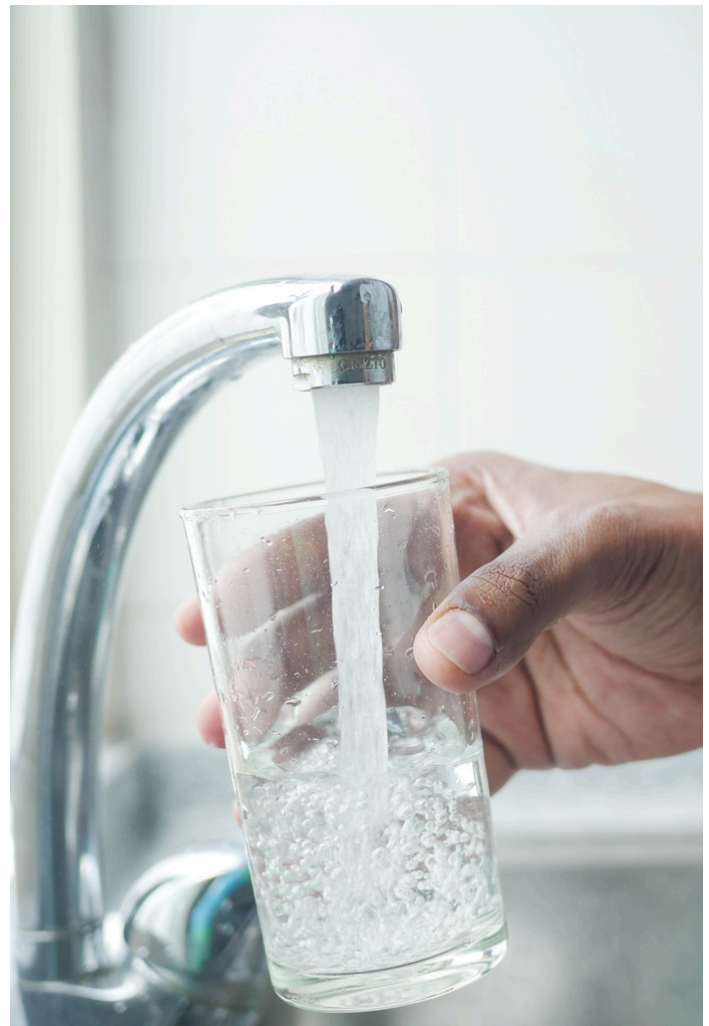
- **Public Meetings and Town Hall:** Extensive discussions about infrastructure funding and utility rate adjustments took place during public Village Board and Committee of the Whole meetings as well as a dedicated Town Hall on June 5, 2025.
- **Educational Resources:** Tools like the utility bill calculator, FAQs, and informational updates were shared via the Village website, e-newsletters, printed newsletters, and social media to help residents understand the impact and necessity of these changes. We also launched the Water Usage Portal so residents can track water usage.
- **Support Programs:** The Village offers a Utility Bill Hardship Program and Utility Efficiency Program and also maintains a dedicated webpage to community resources to assist residents facing financial challenges.

## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Village's efforts in 2025 reflect a deep commitment to responsible governance and proactive planning. By addressing aging infrastructure, meeting lead service compliance requirements, and initiating a comprehensive rate study, Westchester is laying the foundation for a sustainable, resilient utility system.

These actions are more than necessary improvements—they represent an investment in the safety, quality of life, and long-term prosperity of our community.

Through thoughtful planning, transparent communication, and strategic decision-making, the Village is ensuring that its utility systems will serve residents effectively for generations to come.



# KEY UPDATES

## SBC WASTE SOLUTIONS



The Village has now completed its first full year of service with SBC Waste Solutions and continues to monitor

### Successful Annual Spring Cleanup

In April 2025, the Village hosted its first annual Village-wide Spring Cleanup under the SBC contract. The event was a strong success, with residents taking advantage of the opportunity to dispose of bulk items, yard waste, furniture, do-it-yourself construction materials, and other approved items. Participation exceeded expectations, and feedback from the community was overwhelmingly positive. The Village looks forward to hosting another successful cleanup event this year.

### Compost Program Enhancement

After evaluating participation in the compost program, SBC expressed interest in increasing enrollment and expanding accessibility. To support this effort, SBC has introduced a new no-additional-cost option for residents who use their own compost bins. Previously, participation required a monthly rental fee for a company-provided cart.

This enhancement removes a financial barrier and provides greater flexibility for residents who wish to participate in composting. The Village looks forward to promoting this expanded option and encouraging increased participation as part of its continued sustainability efforts.

### Strong Community Partnership

Beyond service delivery, SBC has proven to be a valued community partner. Over the past year, SBC has contributed to and supported numerous Village events, including Black History Month, Juneteenth, the 4th of July Parade, Party in the Park, National Night Out, and Winter Wonderland. Their visible presence and ongoing engagement reflect a commitment not only to service reliability but also to community involvement and partnership.

### Continued Benefits of the SBC Contract

We encourage residents to continue utilizing everything SBC offers, such as:

- Expanded yard waste and compost collection through the end of December
- Easy and quick electronic recycling and hazardous waste collection
- Increased bulk item allowances and unlimited white goods collection



## WATER USE PORTAL: EMPOWERING RESIDENTS WITH REAL-TIME INSIGHTS

In 2025, the Village officially launched its Water Use Portal following the completion of the Village-wide water meter replacement program. This forward-looking initiative provides residents with detailed, near real-time access to their household water consumption data and has already received positive feedback for being useful, accessible, and easy to navigate. The Village also hosted two Town Hall meetings to

### Purpose and Benefits for Residents

The Water Use Portal empowers residents to take greater control of their water usage through features such as:

- **Real-Time Monitoring:** Residents can view their water consumption data and track usage patterns to better understand household water habits.
- **Leak Detection Alerts:** The system notifies users of unusual usage patterns that may indicate leaks, helping prevent water waste and unexpected costs.
- **Cost Awareness:** By providing clear insights into usage trends, the portal helps residents better manage utility bills and plan household expenses.

### Community Education & Engagement

To support a smooth rollout, the Village sent informational mailers to residents and hosted two public Town Hall meetings in July and August 2025 to demonstrate how to use the Water Use Portal, answer resident questions, and provide step-by-step guidance on account setup and navigation. These sessions were well attended and reinforced the Village's commitment to transparency, accessibility, and customer service.

### Why This Matters

The Water Use Portal is more than a technology upgrade — it represents a commitment to transparency, conservation, and customer service. By giving residents direct access to their water data, the Village is promoting environmental stewardship while helping households make informed, cost-conscious decisions. This initiative reflects Westchester's continued investment in modern, resident-focused infrastructure solutions that enhance service delivery and strengthen community engagement.



# ADDITIONAL UPDATES & INITIATIVES

The Village Administration team is pleased to present a summary of updates and initiatives undertaken throughout the year, including but not limited to the following:

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- **Blaque Flames 204:** Opened at 9914 Roosevelt Road offering delicious meats that are barbequed, smoked, or fried. Walk in and enjoy the mouthwatering aromas as you wait for your cooked-to-order meal that brings the heat with a fusion of spice and soul.
- **Coco Burger & Chicken:** Opened at 825 Mannheim Road inside the BP gas station, offering a variety of delicious burgers and juicy chicken. Burgers are grilled to order and made with premium beef, while the chicken is marinated in a signature blend of spices. (Shares space with Krispy Krunchy Chicken.)
- **Jalapeño Taco:** Opened at 10229 offering authentic Mexican cuisine. Owned and operated by a father-and-daughter team who love being part of the Westchester community and look forward to continuing to grow their business.
- **Krispy Krunchy Chicken:** Opened at 825 Mannheim Road inside the BP gas station, offering various fried chicken options and flavorful sides. Their specialty is mildly Cajun-spiced fried chicken that keeps customers coming back. (Shares space with Coco Burger & Chicken.)
- **Tasteful:** Opened at 1929 Mannheim Road offering a variety of grilled and fried menu items along with a diverse bar selection. Guests can make reservations, walk in, or reserve the bar for private events. They continue to expand their offerings, most recently adding catering services.
- **Wing Snob:** Opened at 10350 W. Roosevelt Road offering a wide selection of chicken — and vegetarian — wings, along with sandwiches and sides. Be sure to sign up for their text alerts for discounts and special promotions.
- **Magic Nails:** Opened at 3071 Wolf Road offering manicures, pedicures, nail enhancements, waxing, and additional body care services. Schedule your next appointment online with one of their experienced professionals for a refreshed new look.
- **Time Out For Your Massage Therapy:** Opened at 1547 Westchester Boulevard offering massage therapy and Swedish massage services. Owner Yvette Hayes relocated her business to Westchester after previously operating in Oak Park. Contact Yvette for a relaxing and rejuvenating experience.

## In Progress as of 2025:

- **The Original Steaks & Hoagies:** Started their buildout at 3062 Wolf Road and set to open in early 2026 (now open!). Offering various styles of the traditional Philly cheesesteak sandwich as well as delicious sides. The company started in Ohio and has recently started to spread to the Illinois area.
- **Kriser's Natural Pet:** Started their buildout at 3042 Wolf Road and set to open in early 2026. Offering pet wellness through a holistic lens, you can expect natural pet food, healthy treats, safe pet supplies, pet grooming, pet self-wash, vet services, and friendly animal and pet advice.
- **Huntington Bank:** Opening a new location at 11158 W. 31<sup>st</sup> Street in the lot previously occupied by Kentucky Fried Chicken. The old KFC will be demolished and a brand-new Huntington Bank branch will be constructed covering a similar footprint to KFC. Currently going through approval processes, with demolition and construction to begin in 2026.

## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION & ENGAGEMENT

- **Inaugural Black History Month Recognition:** The Village proudly hosted its first official Black History Month Recognition Ceremony, honoring individuals who have made meaningful contributions to Westchester and the broader Proviso community. The event reflected the Village's continued commitment to celebrating diversity, leadership, and community impact.
- **Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County – Monthly Office Hours at Village Hall:** Throughout 2025, the Veterans Assistance Commission of Cook County held regular monthly office hours at Village Hall, providing direct access to benefits assistance, claims support, and resource navigation for local veterans and their families.
- **Senior and Veterans Commissions Created:** To strengthen engagement and advocacy, the Village formally established Senior and Veterans Commissions in 2025, which will ultimately create structured opportunities for input, programming, and support tailored to these important segments of the community.

## INFRASTRUCTURE & LONG-TERM PLANNING

- **Comprehensive Water Atlas Created:** The Village via CBBEL developed a detailed Water Atlas to better map, analyze, and manage water infrastructure assets. This tool supports data-driven decision-making and long-term capital planning.
- **West Cook Bike & Pedestrian Plan Participation:** The Village participated in regional planning efforts to improve pedestrian safety, connectivity, and multimodal transportation infrastructure. The Village Board formally approved the plan in October 2025.

## PUBLIC WORKS & EQUIPMENT INVESTMENTS

- **Purchase of Two Scorpion II Towable Trailer Attenuators:** To enhance roadway worker safety, the Village invested in two Scorpion II trailer attenuators, providing critical protection during road and infrastructure projects.
- **Streetlight Upgrades:** The Village continued upgrading street lighting infrastructure to improve reliability, visibility, and long-term efficiency.
- **Municipal Building Lighting Upgrades:** Energy-efficient lighting improvements were completed in municipal facilities, reducing energy consumption and operating costs.
- **Public Works Facility Improvements:** Work was completed on the Public Works garage roof and related facility improvements to preserve infrastructure and extend building life.
- **New Equipment Purchases:** The Village invested in a new roller/trailer and backhoe tractor to support roadway and utility maintenance operations.

# ADDITIONAL UPDATES & INITIATIVES

*CONTINUED*

## TECHNOLOGY & MODERNIZATION

- **ERP Implementation with BS&A:** The Village commenced implementation of a new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system with BS&A to modernize financial management, improve internal efficiency, and strengthen reporting capabilities.

## GOVERNANCE & STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- **Village Strategic Plan Initiated:** The Village launched development of a comprehensive Strategic Plan to guide long-term priorities, operational focus, and community engagement efforts.
- **Village Energy Plan Initiated:** Work began on a formal grant-funded Village Energy Plan to evaluate efficiency opportunities and support sustainable operations.
- **Grocery Tax Approved:** Following the State of Illinois' decision to eliminate the statewide grocery tax, the Village approved a local grocery tax to continue that revenue and protect essential services.
- **Water Tower Lease Agreement with Verizon Wireless:** The Village approved a lease agreement with Verizon Wireless for use of the water tower, generating additional non-tax revenue.
- **Camera Partnership with the Park District:** The Village collaborated with the Park District on a camera program to enhance safety and monitoring within public spaces.
- **Health Inspection Services Contract Update:** The Village transitioned to a new contracted provider for health inspection services to maintain compliance and strengthen oversight.



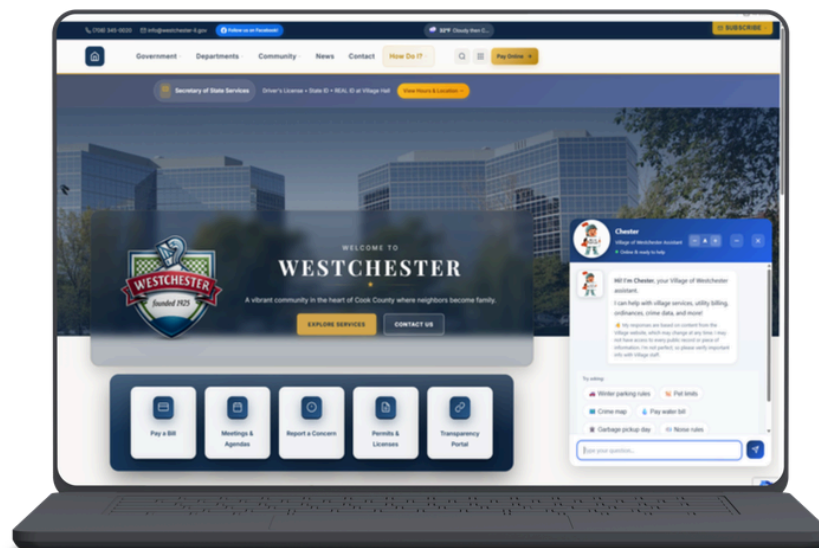
# IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

## NEW VILLAGE WEBSITE DEVELOPED

In late 2025, the Village's in-house team began developing a newly redesigned municipal website with the goal of improving accessibility, organization, and overall user experience. The project focused on creating a more modern, intuitive platform that makes it easier for residents to find information, access services, and stay informed.

The new website was thoughtfully built to be more user-friendly and better organized, with enhanced navigation and improved content structure. A key feature of the redesign is Chester, the Village's AI-powered chatbot, developed to assist residents by answering questions and directing them to relevant resources in real time.

The website officially launched in early 2026 and represents another important step in strengthening transparency, modernizing communication tools, and enhancing how the Village connects with the community. Feedback will continue to be welcomed as the site evolves to meet resident needs.



## OTHER RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- Monthly newsletter mailed to all residents
- Westchester Weekly E-News
- Facebook
- Everbridge emergency notification system

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

Throughout 2025, the Village of Westchester was an active community partner, collaborating with the Chamber of Commerce, Library, Park District, School District, Park District, Library, School District, Westchester Food Pantry, and other organizations through the Westchester Special Events Committee. This collaborative approach enabled the Village to enrich a variety of community events and foster stronger connections among residents.

## 2025 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES THE VILLAGE HOSTED OR CONTRIBUTED TO:

- **BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION**
- **ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION WITH WESTCHESTER MIDDLE SCHOOL**
- **TWO SHREDDING & RECYCLING EVENTS**
- **SENIOR CITIZEN SAFETY SERIES (THREE-PART PROGRAM WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT & COOK COUNTY SHERIFF)**
- **21ST ANNUAL DUNKIN' DONUTS COP ON A ROOFTOP**
- **CELEBRATE WESTCHESTER - ROARING 20'S GALA**
- **LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS ILLINOIS**
- **JUNETEENTH FLAG RAISING & COMMUNITY CELEBRATION**
- **WINE & CHEESE CENTENNIAL FUNDRAISER**
- **4TH OF JULY PARADE**
- **PARTY IN THE PARK**
- **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT**
- **CONCERTS IN THE PARK SERIES AT MAYFAIR PARK**
- **REUSE-A-PALOOZA**
- **HISPANIC HERITAGE CELEBRATION**
- **TOUR DE PROVISO**
- **FIRE STATION OPEN HOUSE**
- **VETERANS 5K RUN & BRUNCH**
- **CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**
- **WINTER WONDERLAND**
- **SHOP WITH A COP**
- **CHRISTMAS IN PROVISO**



# CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS



In 2025, the Village of Westchester proudly celebrated its 100th Anniversary — a milestone marking a century of growth, resilience, and community pride. This historic occasion was guided by the dedicated 100th Anniversary Committee, whose members worked collaboratively to plan meaningful events, commemorative initiatives, and opportunities for residents to celebrate the Village’s rich history.

Throughout the year, Centennial celebrations were thoughtfully woven into existing events while also introducing new initiatives designed to honor Westchester’s past and inspire its future.

## **Centennial Highlights Included:**

- ★ Distribution of Centennial signage to local businesses, showcasing community pride across commercial corridors.
- ★ Installation of new Village entry signs, welcoming residents and visitors while commemorating 100 years of Westchester.
- ★ A monthly historical feature article in the Village newsletter, highlighting stories, milestones, and moments from the past century.
- ★ Celebrate Westchester – Roaring 20’s Gala, in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, bringing the community together in a festive tribute to the Village’s founding era.
- ★ The Wine & Cheese Centennial Fundraiser, hosted in partnership with the Save the Prairie Society at the Wolf Road Prairie House.
- ★ A special enhancement of the annual Party in the Park, reimagined as “Birthday Party in the Park,” featuring old-fashioned games, a pie-eating contest, and a community-wide singing of “Happy Birthday” to the Village.
- ★ The launch of the “Voices of Westchester” interview series, capturing reflections and memories from residents who have helped shape the community.
- ★ Installation of a commemorative Centennial plaque at the Village fountain, creating a lasting physical tribute to this historic milestone.
- ★ Distribution of Longtime Resident Certificates, signed by the Village President, recognizing individuals and families whose years of residency have helped build and sustain the Westchester community.

# LOOKING AHEAD

As we close 2025 — Westchester’s Centennial year — we reflect on a year that honored our past while positioning our community for the future. Reaching 100 years as a Village was both a celebration and a responsibility, and we approached it with a focus on long-term sustainability, modernization, and strategic progress.

Throughout the year, we strengthened infrastructure planning, implemented responsible financial strategies, advanced operational improvements, and enhanced community engagement. These efforts, alongside meaningful Centennial celebrations, reflect our commitment to thoughtful governance and a strong foundation for the next century.

As we move forward, we remain dedicated to responsible leadership, continued investment, and building a resilient and vibrant Westchester for generations to come.



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